

VZCZCXRO6546  
PP RUEHAG RUEHROV  
DE RUEHAK #1533 1661250  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 151250Z JUN 07  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2613  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0910  
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 0967  
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0524  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0422  
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 1648  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 0636  
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0143  
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 0295

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 001533

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/14/2017

TAGS: [PREL](#) [OVIP](#) [SY](#) [LE](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: TURKISH FM TRAVELING TO DAMASCUS AND BEIRUT

Classified By: Ambassador Ross Wilson, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) MFA Deputy Undersecretary for the Middle East and South Asia Feridun Sinirlioglu told Ambassador June 15 that FM Gul will travel to Damascus on June 21 and on to Beirut on June 22. Sinirlioglu said that in Damascus, Gul will seek to moderate Syria's reaction to the establishment of the Hariri Tribunal. Turkey does not believe it useful for Damascus to hear only from the Saudis and Iran on this matter. In Beirut, Gul will try to show support for PM Siniora and consult with players in Lebanon's domestic political drama, including Nabi-Berri.

12. (C) Recalling the US briefing provided to MFA and other officials on foreign fighters crossing into Iraq from Syria, Ambassador asked if Gul would be willing to raise this issue in Damascus. Sinirlioglu said that he would propose that Gul do so.

13. (C) Ambassador asked whether there would be any contact with the leadership of HAMAS in Damascus, especially in light of recent events in Gaza. Sinirlioglu said there would definitely not be any political level contact (i.e. by Gul) with HAMAS. He did not know about any plans at lower levels, but acknowledged the potential pitfalls and gains if there could be any moderation of HAMAS' tactics.

Visit Ankara's Classified Web Site at  
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/ankara/>

WILSON